REMARKS

The office action of March 11, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over EP 256410 to Bohnenkamp in view of the patent to Giacomoni.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bohnenkamp in view of Giacomoni, and further in view of the patent to Sudau et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 3, and amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to Bohnenkamp, it can be seen that this reference discloses device for bending and balancing axial movable working rolls of a four-high stand.

The piston holding block is encapsulated and the force of the bending means is redirected into the roll chocks.

Blocks 12, 13 are arranged in the roll stand for bending the working rolls, and are provided with a T-shaped vertical guide 18 on the roll side in order to absorb tilting moments. In the presently claimed invention, on the other hand, the pressure-transmitting element 12 is mounted on the roll stand 6 by a vertical guide 8.

The patent to Giacomoni discloses a rolling mill with axially shiftable rolls. Although Giacomoni does teach a jack 6 whose center axis 60 intersects the projecting arm 32 of the chock 3, the over-all construction and bending device are different than in the presently claimed invention. Namely, there is no suggestion of a multiple side encapsulation of the supporting block 5 by the pressure transfer means 7. This is, indeed, constructed with Bohnenkamp, so that a T-shaped vertical guide 55 can even be realized, it is not located in the roll stand, but instead in the block 5 itself between the two-sided bending elements 6a, 62 and 6a, 66. Then, from the teachings of Giacomoni, the intermediate piece 7 is T-shaped (see col. 6, lines 31-32), wherein its vertical part 73 has vertical guide

faces 55 on both sides (see col. 6, lines 45-52). The T-shaped vertical guides of Bohnenkamp and Giacomoni have the major disadvantage that during contact via the bending means the carrying length of the vertical guides is unavoidably reduced. In contrast, the presently claimed construction provides support over the entire guide length.

In summary, each of the references teaches a very specific construction of a bending arrangement for axially and vertically adjustable rolls. Neither of the references gives any suggestion, nor would it be obvious to one skilled in the art, to remove parts from the construction of one reference and insert them into the construction of the other reference. Each of the constructions has its own unique features that do not readily transfer to the other construction. Furthermore, the references do not teach a vertical guide for the pressure-transmitting element which is provided on the roll stand so that the pressure-transmitting element is supported directly on the roll stand, as in the present invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome

and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Sudau et al. has also been considered. Applicant submits that Sudau et al. add nothing to the previously discussed references so as to teach the presently claimed invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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